



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
727-824-5305, FAX 727-824-5308

March 22, 2016
FB16-021

Commercial Harvest of Vermilion Snapper in South Atlantic Waters Will Close on March 29, 2016

Commercial harvest of vermillion snapper in South Atlantic waters will **close at 12:01 a.m. (local time) March 29, 2016**. The 2016 January-June commercial catch limit is 431,460 pounds whole weight. Reports indicate the catch limit will be met by March 29, 2016. Commercial harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on July 1, 2016.

The operator of a vessel that has been issued a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper and that is landing vermillion snapper for sale must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such vermillion snapper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, March 29, 2016. The prohibition on sale does not apply to sale or purchase of vermillion snapper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time) March 29, 2016, and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

During the closure:

- Harvest or possession of vermillion snapper in or from federal waters is limited to the recreational bag and possession limits.
- Sale and purchase of vermillion snapper in or from federal waters is prohibited.
- The closure applies in both state and federal waters for a person onboard a vessel with a federal snapper-grouper permit.

This closure is necessary to protect the snapper-grouper resource.